

survived, and they seem to show that the work was a crude anticipation of *Popanilla*, its therne being the adventures of one Ayliner Papillon in a visit to Vraibleusia. It was characteristic of Disraeli that in spite of disappointment at the first the project, though allowed to sleep, should not have been abandoned. Nearly all his successes in life were founded on previous failures.

To Mr. T. F. Maples.

WINDSOR,
Aug.

2,1823. MY DEAR SIR,

A letter which begins with congratulations is generally a pleasant thing, and I therefore feel very grateful for the opportunity of thus happily commencing my epistle to the young stranger who

porrigens teneras
raanus matris e
gremio suae Dulce
rideat ad patrem
seraihiante labello.¹

But to leave Catullus and congratulations for a more matter of fact subject. As no particular time was settled for my return, and as you expressed a wish that I would communicate with you upon it, I am under the necessity of intruding upon you, surrounded of course by crowds of hurrying and eager friends who hail this new accession to the house of Montague, to ask the very uninteresting and business-like question of, when would you wish me to return? If you can find time to write me half a line upon this subject I shall feel much obliged. Present my best compliments to Mrs. Maples. With the wish that every day of your daughter's life may be as sunny as the present and that she may never know the miseries of a wet summer,

I remain, my clear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

B. DISBABLI.²

When that letter was written the Disraeli family were spending a summer holiday on the Thames. In their

¹ Catullus, *Carm.* LXL, 210.

² It seems to have been about the "beginning of this year, when he was eighteen, that Benjamin dropped the apostrophe in his name. His brothers and sister followed his example, though their father retained the old spelling to the end.